

Global Labour Rights Reporter
Volume II, Issue II (August 2022)
Call for Papers

Introduction

The ILAW Network is preparing to publish the next issue of its journal – the Global Labour Rights Reporter (GLRR). The previous three issues are available on our website [here](#). The GLRR is a forum primarily for labour and employment law practitioners, including ILAW Network members, to grapple with the legal and practical issues that directly affect workers and their organizations today. The GLRR is available in English, Spanish and French.

Theme

Each issue of the journal is organized thematically and is meant to highlight trends in law and notable cases and judicial opinions, as well as analytical pieces that examine strategies for the effective promotion and defense of the rights of all workers. For the next issue of the GLRR, the Editorial Board has chosen the theme of “**The Future of the International Labour Organization**”.

In 2019, the ILO celebrated its 100th anniversary. Its constitution made two fundamental and important claims. First, it held that that universal peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice. Second, it explained that the failure of any nation to adopt humane labor standards is standing as an obstacle to social justice. On this (still relevant) foundation, the ILO made significant and lasting contributions to the global governance of labor and capital that improved the lives of workers worldwide. However, the ILO faces significant institutional challenges that, if left unaddressed, will cause the organization to struggle to remain relevant to the realization of social justice.

For example:

- While the ILO has developed an impressive body of international standards, the ILO has been mostly unsuccessful in promulgating new standards on the most pressing problems facing workers today, from digitalization and the rise of management by artificial intelligence, the lack of corporate accountability in global supply chains, the growth of precarious and/or non-standard forms of employment (often the result of misclassification) and the lack of social dialogue in many countries on achieving a just transition in the fastest possible time, among others. There is also a dearth of any new sectoral standards outside of the maritime sector.
- While the ILO has an impressive supervisory system, it has been incrementally weakened by sustained opposition by employers and some governments. This includes recent challenges to the mandate of the ILO’s Committee of Experts to interpret ILO conventions, challenges to the well-developed jurisprudence within the Committee on the Application of Standards and the Committee on Freedom of Association, and the effective impossibility of establishing commissions of inquiry or resolving disputes of

interpretation through an in-house tribunal or referral to the International Court of Justice. There is also a troubling trend among governments which are refusing to accept missions which have been authorized by the ILO supervisory system.

- The ILO as yet has no effective supervision of multinational employers and global supply chains. The original and revised 2017 MNE Declaration have yet to be effectively used to resolve disputes among workers and multinational employers, despite sparse attempts to do so. The inability of the ILO to engage ‘real’ employers, rather than anti-union law firms now representing many delegations, including lead firms, has also been detrimental for the development of progressive social partnership.
- Technical capacity programs, including Decent Work Country Programs, have not been effective in addressing key concerns for workers, and have not led to meaningful improvements for workers as a result. A lack of accountability has been a root cause of this problem in many states.
- Despite the importance of labor to global priorities, the ILO continues to play a secondary role among other UN and Bretton Woods organizations. For example, during the pandemic, the WHO and sector-level UN agencies had more direct input into global policy than the ILO.

In June 2022, a new Director General will be appointed who will need to steer the ILO into the 21st Century. We hope that this next issue of the GLRR will include constructive critiques and ideas for how the ILO can continue to deliver on its original mission to promote social justice for the world of work today and tomorrow.

Submission Process

We are placing a call for submissions that are relevant to the theme of this issue, which may but need not address the specific examples above. We are in particular interested in submissions which point toward potential solutions to these problems.

Please email all submissions to Haley Gray at hgray@solidaritycenter.org on or before April 15, 2022, with a subject line of “ILAW Journal Submission, Volume 2, Issue 2”.

Submissions of various lengths are welcome. While the average article will be 5 pages (appx 2500 words), we will also accept longer articles of up to 10 pages (appx 5000 words). For references and citations, please have them as footnotes at the bottom of each page and not in parenthesis within the text or at the end of the document. We prefer the Bluebook citation format where possible. Additionally, we will accept a limited number of other kinds of submissions, including edited interviews, short summaries of relevant cases and short features of labour lawyers facing repression for their professional activity in defense of workers.

We will accept submissions in English, Spanish or French. The editorial board will respond promptly after the due date and will work with authors to get selected submissions ready for

publication. For any additional questions please email admin@ilawnetwork.com. In addition to your submission, please also include all authors' full names, titles, organizations, and photos.